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ARTHUR HERBERT NORTON

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ON January 5, 1943, Arthur Herbert Norton died at his home in Portland, Maine. He had been in failing health since May of the previous year when a critical surgical operation served only to prolong his life for a few months but could not restore him to normal health. He was born on April 19, 1870, on White Head Island in the town of St. George, Maine, the son of Capt. Horace F. Norton, first captain of the Life Saving Station there, and Cynthia Elwell Norton. He attended the St. George schools but received a far broader education on the shores of his native town. Here were unlimited opportunities for study and research on the life of the sea shore, especially of the sea birds. Here he began his observations on birds and their migrations and also began to make collections. In his diary he says: "I wore the covers off a copy of Rev. J. G. Woods' 'Juvenile Natural History'." His father had many good books and read to the children in the evenings, and very often this reading was about Natural History.

In 1885 the family moved to Westbrook, Maine, where Mr. Norton soon found employment in the Haskell silk mill. Here together with his brother he acquired a boat which was kept at the mouth of the Presumpscot River in Falmouth. In his free time he explored Casco Bay and its islands. The observations and studies of these early years laid the foundation for his life work. At this time he decided that he would study Natural History in earnest.

One of his first articles to appear in print was "Nesting of

Contopus borealis at Westbrook, Maine", which appeared in the *Oologist* in 1890. Through a correspondent he was induced to become an associate of the American Ornithologists' Union. At its meetings he met men who were leaders in the field of bird study. Some of them were particularly interested in his work on the sea birds. As a result of this contact he made an intensive study of the gull colonies of the Maine islands.

In 1898 Mr. Norton decided to give his whole time to his Natural History studies and went to South Carolina equipped to study and photograph birds. He was fairly successful in finding the birds he wished but it was the time of the Spanish American War and his plates were confiscated by the government and his equipment and camera were open to suspicion.

In 1905 Mr. Norton replaced Mr. Charles B. Fuller as Cabinet Keeper of the Natural History Museum at 22 Elm Street, Portland, Maine. Soon after this he moved to Portland where he made his home for the rest of his life. From this time he was identified with the Portland Society of Natural History. He was Curator of the Museum for thirty-seven years.

During his active life he contributed over three hundred articles on various phases of Natural History to scientific publications and for five years he served as editor of the *Maine Naturalist*. Many of his articles, especially in his earlier years, were written about birds. Such were "Birds of the Bowdoin College Expedition to Labrador" in 1901 and "The Sharptailed Sparrows of Maine" in 1897, published in the *Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History*, and "Birds new or rare in the Fauna of Maine," published in *Auk* in 1913. In addition there were articles dealing with other animal groups as "The mammals of Portland, Maine, and Vicinity" published in 1930 in the *Proceedings of the Portland Society*.

Mr. Norton had been working for many years on a "Catalogue of the Birds of Maine". Extensive manuscripts and card files on this project had been accumulated, and this material as well as his extensive library has been presented to the University of Maine. Shortly before his death arrangements had been made with members of the University Faculty to complete this Catalogue.

Mr. Norton's interest in these groups did not diminish as he

grew older but his interest and knowledge of the Flora of Maine increased with the years as his short notes and articles in *RHODORA* testify. Some of his papers appeared in the *Maine Naturalist* which was first published in 1920 and of which he became editor in 1926. He contributed much material to the infrequent *Bulletins* of the Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine. He was president of this organization for the year 1914 and a few years later he was again elected president, an office he held until 1935.

He also served as president of the Cumberland County Audubon Society, and the Maine Audubon Society. He was a charter member of the American Society of Mammalogists and of the Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society. He was also a member of the Portland Society of Natural History, of the Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston and Auburn, Maine, of the American Ornithological Union and of the New England Botanical Club. He was a corresponding member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

Mr. Norton possessed a deep interest in botanical study. His sustained interest in the botany of Maine can be judged by a survey of his notes in *RHODORA* which began in Volume 4 in 1902 while the last appeared in 1939. Some typical articles are "Plants apparently new to the Maine Catalogue" in 1912, "Some Noteworthy Plants from the Islands and Coast of Maine" in 1913 and "Plants apparently new to Mt. Katahdin" in 1935. While he made trips for observation and collecting to states farther south, his particular field was Maine and there was hardly a section of the State that he had not visited and tramped over. His attendance at the Field Meetings of the Josselyn Botanical Society could always be depended upon. To these meetings he brought his broad background and understanding of the local flora as well as a knowledge of the contributions of others to the flora of that particular region.

My acquaintance with Mr. Norton dates from the Meeting of the Josselyn Botanical Society at Oxford in 1907. There his genuine interest and unselfish helpfulness made the meeting outstanding for the younger members. During the week following the meeting I had the opportunity of being with him in the field

for two memorable days, one along the Presumpscot River near Portland and another in Brunswick where Mr. Norton, Mr. E. B. Chamberlain and myself were the guests of Prof. L. A. Lee of Bowdoin College. The same interest and enthusiasm characterized him in the subsequent meetings that marked him then. The last meeting at which I was with him in the field was the meeting of the Josselyn Botanical Society at Newport in 1941 where he seemed as tireless and eager as in the earlier years.

The lack of extended formal education did not constitute a great handicap to Mr. Norton's chosen career. A recognition of the value of his scientific studies was given him in 1940 when the University of Maine awarded him the degree of Master of Science.

Mr. Norton was modest and retiring by nature and did not like to appear as possessing superior knowledge, but those who came to know him realized that he could answer their questions with authority and accuracy. A marked characteristic was his kindness and patience with amateurs and with anyone who approached him. As a result he was known throughout the State and had an extensive correspondence with men and women in all walks of life. Because of this wide acquaintance many items of scientific interest came to him as well as many specimens for the Portland Society of Natural History. All through the State there are many who feel his passing as a personal loss. Those of us who knew him best realize that the State has lost an excellent botanist and that we have lost a friend whose place cannot be filled.

WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

SCABIOSA COLUMBARIA IN CENTRAL NEW YORK.—Several years ago, Dr. Anne E. Perkins collected *Scabiosa Columbaria* L. in an unmown field along the road between Gowanda and Salamanca in Cattaraugus County, New York. She reported about 150 plants in the field. In the late summer of 1942, Dr. Mildred E. Faust and Miss Nettie M. Sadler found this same species established on the top of the hill just southwest of the falls at Delphi, in Oneida County. They have deposited two collections from this locality in the Cornell University Herbarium, one obtained on September 1 and the other on October 8.